



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, Box 50088
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850



In Reply Refer To:
1-2-2006-SP-260

APR 12 2006

Nami Ohtomo
Environmental Planner
Parsons, Brinkerhoff, Quade & Douglas, Inc
American Savings Bank Tower
1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2400
Honolulu Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mr. Ohtomo:

Thank you for your letter dated March 30, 2006, requesting a list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in the vicinity of the proposed high-capacity transit improvements from Kapolei to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on the island of O'ahu. Your letter was received in our office on April 3, 2006. The proposed project is to improve public transit in a 23-mile corridor and may include an extension into Waikīkī. Your letter states that it is the intent of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to propose these improvements, in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

We reviewed the information you provided as well as pertinent information in our files, including data compiled by the Hawai'i Biodiversity and Mapping Program. Information from these sources show no designated critical habitats in or near the proposed project area. However, there are records of three species that are federally listed as endangered in or near (within one-third mile) the proposed project area: *Lasiurus cinereus semotus* ('ōpe'ape'a; Hawaiian hoary bat); *Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis* ('ālae 'ula; common moorhen, Hawaiian gallinule) and *Abutilon menziesii* (ko'olua'ula, red ilima). The general locations of these and other federally listed species are shown in the attached map.

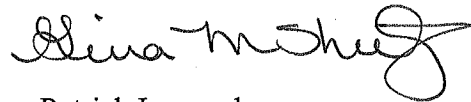
These endangered species may occur at numerous locations within or near the proposed action area, and they are not restricted to the point locations indicated on the enclosed map. The records for the Hawaiian hoary bat are most likely incidental occurrences of transient individuals. The Hawaiian gallinule is restricted to wetlands. Construction and operational impacts from the North-South Road upon the entire population of red ilima at Kapolei have been adequately addressed in a Habitat Conservation Plan with the State of Hawai'i in 2004. On March 18, 2005, a State incidental take license was issued to the State Department of Transportation (DOT) for incidental take of the entire plant population, associated with construction of the North-South

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Road. This license is valid until July 31, 2021. It appears that the proposed activities of the City and County of Honolulu DTS overlap with the North-South Road project. We recommend that DTS secure a certificate of inclusion from the State DOT for impacts to *Abutilon menziesii* resulting from the proposed high capacity transit improvements.

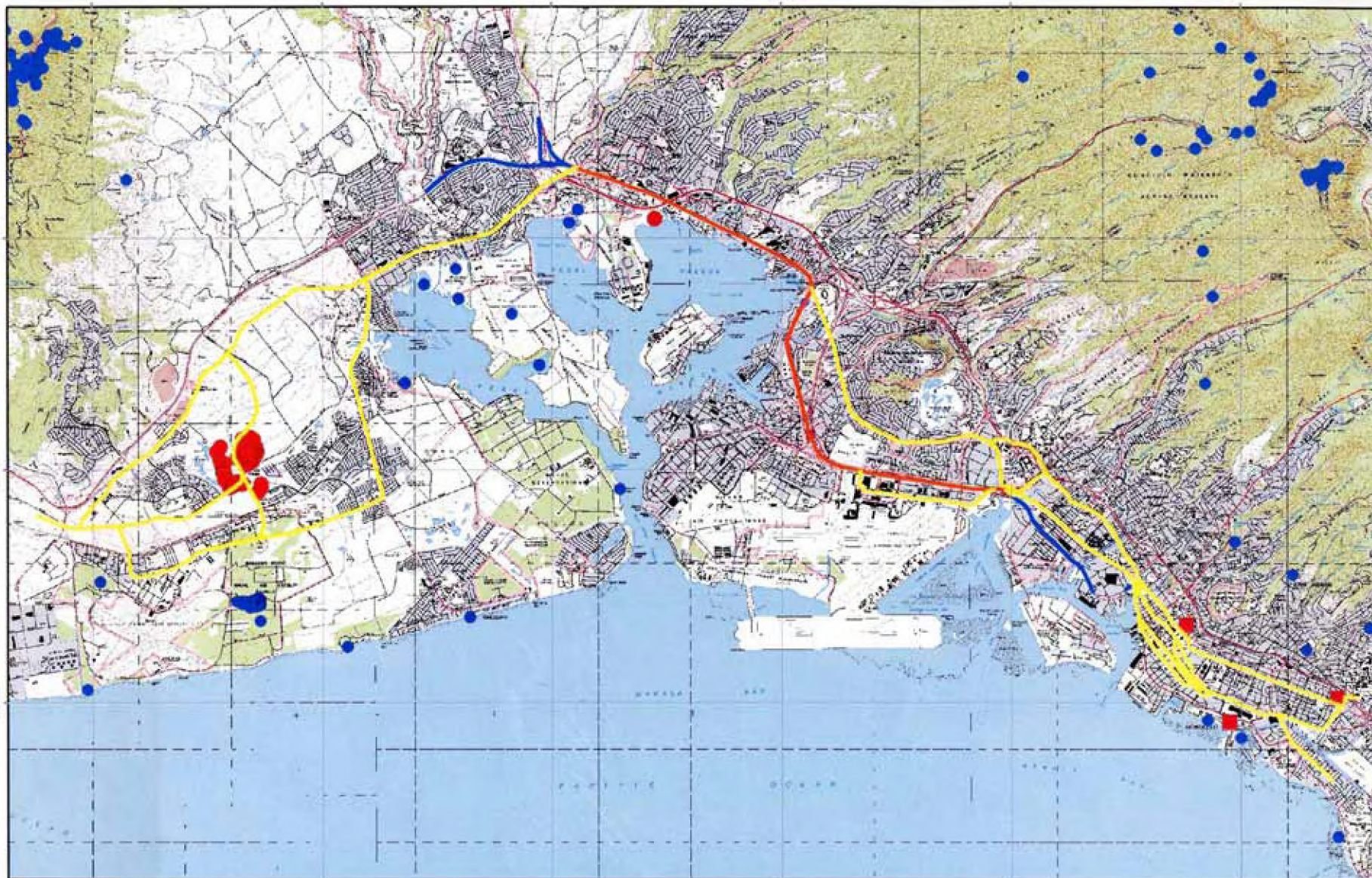
The remaining two species (Hawaiian hoary bat and Hawaiian gallinule) may need special consideration before, during and after the execution of your project. We appreciate your efforts to conserve endangered species. If you have questions, please contact Assistant Field Supervisor Gina Shultz (phone: 808/792-9400; fax: 808/792-9581).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Leonard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

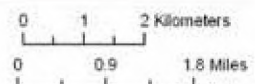
 Patrick Leonard
Field Supervisor

Enclosure (1)



- *Abutilon menziesii*
- *Lasiurus cinereus semotus*
- *Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis*
- Other listed species

- Alternative 3
- Alternative 4
- Alternatives 3 and 4



1:138,111
UTM Zone 4, Nad83

Map produced by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, April 7, 2006.

